



ADRIAN M. FENTY
MAYOR

January 30, 2009

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Return of the Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician
Transfer Amendment Act of 2008 (Bill 17-768)

Dear Chairman Gray:

Pursuant to my authority as Mayor of the District of Columbia under section 404(e) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 790; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.04(a))(2008 Supp.), I am hereby returning unsigned Bill 17-768, the "Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician Transfer Amendment Act of 2008."

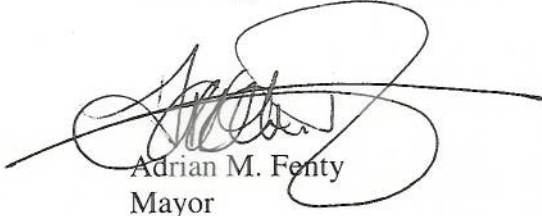
Bill 17-768 was introduced at my request on May 30, 2008 to implement recommendations of the Task Force on Emergency Medical Services ("Task Force") aimed at bringing better Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the residents of the District of Columbia. Bill 17-768 was intended to advance the plans of the Department of Fire and EMS (F&EMS) to achieve pay and pension parity, which included swearing in civilian single role F&EMS employees as sworn, uniformed personnel.

In addition, the Attorney General has raised legal questions regarding the amended bill's effect on employee participation in the District of Columbia Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan, and the Chief Financial Officer has withdrawn its fiscal impact statement as a result of the modifications to the original bill.

However, the amended version of Bill 17-768 makes it difficult for F&EMS to implement the Task Force's recommendations.

For these reasons, I will not be able to sign Bill 17-768. However, I would be happy to work with the Council to develop a proposal that meets our shared goal of improving fire and emergency medical services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian M. Fenty', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Mary Cheh
The Honorable Phil Mendelson
The Honorable David A. Catania
The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
The Honorable Jim Graham
The Honorable Jack Evans
The Honorable Muriel Bowser
The Honorable Harry Thomas, Jr.
The Honorable Tommy Wells
The Honorable Yvette M. Alexander
The Honorable Marion Barry
The Honorable Michael Brown